

John Cornyn



John Cornyn was elected to the U.S. Senate in 2002. In a short period of time, he earned a national reputation as a forceful and articulate voice for Texas values. He was selected by his colleagues in December 2006 to be a member of the five-person Republican Senate leadership team – Vice Chairman of the Senate Republican Conference – the only first-term Senator in recent memory to be so honored.

Sen. Cornyn continues to take a leading role on many important issues in the Senate. He is committed to bolstering our national defense and keeping America safe from terrorism, reducing spending, securing our borders, making health care more accessible, continuing to strengthen the economy and expand job opportunities, improving educational opportunity for all Texans, and protecting the most vulnerable in our society.

Sen. Cornyn serves on the Armed Services, Judiciary and Budget Committees. In addition, he is Vice Chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Ethics. He serves as the top Republican on both the Judiciary Committee's Immigration, Refugees and Border Security subcommittee and the Armed Services Committee's Airland subcommittee.

Sen. Cornyn has distinguished himself as a prominent supporter of President Bush's judicial nominees; he continues to work tirelessly on behalf of Texas military personnel, veterans and their families; he has played a leading role in securing our nation's borders, while working to bring about broader reforms of our broken immigration system; and he stands as a dedicated defender of free markets, traditional values and individual liberty.

In addition to his legislative committees, Sen. Cornyn is the chairman of the Senate India Caucus, chairman of the Senate RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) Caucus, Vice Chairman of the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus, and Vice Chairman of the Senate Republican Conference Task Force on Hispanic Affairs. He is also a member of the Senate Republican High Tech Task Force, the Congressional Oversight Group on Trade and the President's Export Council.

While in the Senate, John Cornyn has received various awards and recognitions, including the 2005 Border Texan of the Year Award; the National Child Support Enforcement Association's Children's Champion Award; the American Farm Bureau Federation's Friend of Farm Bureau Award; the Texas Association of Business's (TAB) Fighter for Free Enterprise Award; the National Federation of Independent Business's (NFIB) Guardian of Small Business Award; the National Coalition of Latino Clergy and Christian Leader's (CONLAMIC) Latino Leadership Award; and the Texas Association of Mexican American Chambers of Commerce's (TAMACC) International Leadership Legislative Award; among others.

As Texas Attorney General from 1999-2002, John Cornyn directed many initiatives vital to the interests of Texas families. Cornyn served for six years as a District Court Judge in San Antonio before being elected to the Texas Supreme Court in 1990, where he served for seven years.

John Cornyn was born in Houston on February 2, 1952 and was raised in San Antonio. He is the son of John and Gale Cornyn, both native Texans. His father, a B-17 pilot in World War II, served for 31 years in the U.S. Air Force and, later, taught at the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio. A graduate of Trinity University and St. Mary's School of Law, both in San Antonio, John Cornyn also earned a Masters of Law from the University

of Virginia Law School in 1995. He was named the St. Mary's Distinguished Law School Graduate in 1994 and a Trinity University Distinguished Alumnus in 2001.

Sen. Cornyn is married to Sandy, his wife of 27 years. They have two daughters.

Senator John Cornyn's Committee Assignments

ARMED SERVICES

The Committee on Armed Services has jurisdiction over all aspects of national defense and homeland security; the Department of Defense, the Department of the Army, the Department of the Navy, and the Department of the Air Force; military research and development; national security aspects of nuclear energy; pay, promotion, retirement, and other benefits and privileges of members of the Armed Forces, including overseas education of civilian and military dependents; selective service system; aeronautical and space activities peculiar to or primarily associated with the development of weapons systems or military operations as well as strategic and critical materials necessary for the common defense.

- Airland Subcommittee Ranking Member
- Emerging Threats and Capabilities Subcommittee

JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is responsible for overseeing the nomination process of all federal judges for circuit and district courts as well as justices nominated to the Supreme Court. Other key areas of responsibility of the committee are immigration and naturalization, state and territorial boundary lines and civil liberties. The Committee also oversees all federal courts, including civil and criminal courts. The Judiciary Committee has one of the broadest jurisdictions in the Senate, ranging from criminal justice to antitrust and intellectual property law.

- Immigration, Refugees and Border Security Subcommittee Ranking Member
- The Constitution Subcommittee
- Human Rights and the Law Subcommittee
- Terrorism, Technology and Homeland Security Subcommittee

BUDGET

The Senate Committee on the Budget is responsible for drafting Congress' annual budget plan and monitoring action on the budget for the Federal Government. In addition, the Budget Committee has jurisdiction over the operation of the Congressional Budget Office (CBO). The budget resolution prepared by the Budget Committee sets out a broad blueprint for the government as a whole, whereas the Finance Committee and the Appropriations Committee prepare the legislation that actually enacts specific tax and spending policies.

ETHICS, Vice Chairman

The Select Committee on Ethics investigates allegations of misconduct by members and recommends disciplinary action to the full Senate.

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